

REMARKS

In the Non-Final Office Action mailed on December 23, 2005, the Examiner: allowed claims 36-39, 42, 43 and 45; objected to claims 6, 7, 14 and 15; rejected claims 16-23, 25, 27, 28 and 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 101; and rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 8-13, 40, 41, 46 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,065,021 to George ("George"). Further examination and review in view of the amendments and remarks below are respectfully requested.

Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for indicating that claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 36-39, 42, 43 and 45 are allowable over the prior art.

The Examiner objected to claims 6, 7, 14 and 15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants herein amend claims 6 and 14 to be independent claims that include all the limitations of their prior base claims 1 and 9, respectively. Claims 7 and 15 continue to depend from independent claims 6 and 14, respectively.

The Examiner rejected claims 16-23, 25, 27, 28 and 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner indicated that the claims are directed to a method that is not necessarily being tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable. Applicants herein amend claims 16 and 25 to address the concerns raised by the Examiner. In particular, Applicants amend claims 16 and 25 to explicitly recite "A computer-implemented method" as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 17-23 continue to depend from claim 16, and claims 27, 28 and 30-35 continue to depend from claim 25.

While Applicants do not concede the propriety of the prior art rejection, in order to expedite examination of the application, Applicants hereby cancel rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 8-13, 40, 41, 46 and 47.

Applicants present new claims 48-53, each of which depends from either allowed claims 6 or 14, and should therefore be allowable on the same basis as claims 6 and 14.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 7, 14-23, 25, 27, 28, 30-39, 42, 43, 45 and 48-53 are allowable, and respectfully solicit a prompt notice of allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Do Te Kim

Registration No.: 46,231
PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-8000
(206) 359-7198 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant